(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date 26 August 2004 (26.08.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number WO 2004/071176 A1

(51) International Patent Classification7:

A01G 31/00

(21) International Application Number:

PCT/NL2004/000091

(22) International Filing Date: 10 February 2004 (10.02.2004)

(25) Filing Language:

Dutch

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

1022683 1023354 14 February 2003 (14.02.2003) NL 7 May 2003 (07.05.2003) NL

- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): VAN DER SLUIS CIGAR MACHINERY B.V. [NL/NL]; IJsselkade 20, NL-8261 AB Kampen (NL).
- (72) Inventor; and
- (75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): LANGEZAAL, Lucas, Everhardus, Maria [NL/NL]; Bilderdijklaan 10, NL-3818 WE Amersfoort (NL).
- (74) Agent: PLAGGENBORG, Menko, Bernard et al.; Octrooibureau Los en Stigter B.V., Weteringschans 96, NL-1017 XS Amsterdam (NL).

- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A GROWTH SUBSTRATE

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a method of manufacturing a culture medium on which plants can be grown. This method is characterised by a) mixing I: a particulate base material, chosen from at least one of organic and inorganic materials, with II: a thermoplastic biologically degradable binding agent, b) heating at least the binding agent in order to at least partly fluidise it, c) cooling the mixture so as to substantially solidify the binding agent and whereby at least a part of the base material becomes bonded by means of the binding agent. The method according to the invention provides an environmentally safe and plant-friendly culture medium that is biologically degradable and retains its shape well.

